



# Senate Committee urges swift action on stalled projects in Bomet.



The Senate Standing Committee on Devolution has urged Bomet County to accelerate the completion of all stalled development projects, stressing accountability and proper use of public funds. After inspecting key initiatives, the Committee called on Governor Barchok's administration to fast-track progress and ensure that ongoing investments deliver meaningful benefits to the people of Bomet. **PHOTO | Brian Keter**



Dr. John Ondiek of Robert Johnson Development & Outsourcing International visits Bomet County to strengthen and expand collaborative efforts between the County Government, the Kenya Red Cross Society, and U.S partners aimed at enhancing healthcare infrastructure and improving service delivery across the region. His visit underscores a shared commitment to supporting key facilities, identifying priority needs, and mobilizing additional partners and resources to advance quality healthcare for communities in Bomet County.

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## By Mathew Rotich

The Senate Standing Committee on Devolution and Intergovernmental Relations has encouraged Bomet Governor Prof. Hillary Barchok to accelerate the completion of all ongoing development initiatives in the county. The directive followed a thorough inspection tour conducted by the Committee, which allowed members to assess the county's progress and identify areas where support could enhance efficiency and accountability.

Speaking to the media after the visit, members of the Committee led by Vice Chairperson Senator Catherine Mumma highlighted the importance of ensuring that public resources are used effectively to deliver maximum benefits to the residents of Bomet. They emphasized that development must remain continuous, noting that government functions in perpetuity and the momentum of progress should not be interrupted by changes in leadership. Senator Mumma observed that the Committee's oversight role is intended to reinforce good governance and accountability, ensuring that county governments implement initiatives that bring

real, visible improvements to the lives of citizens. She praised Bomet County for its openness and cooperation during the inspection and encouraged the administration to maintain its commitment to timely and quality service delivery. In response, Governor Barchok assured the Committee that his administration is taking proactive steps to address any delays in ongoing development works and is committed to completing them within the remaining period of his term.

He reiterated that delivering tangible progress and ensuring that public funds translate into meaningful benefits for residents remain top priorities for his government. The Committee's visit, which followed a Statement sought by Bomet Senator Wakili Sigei, was recognized as a constructive engagement that strengthens collaboration between the Senate and county governments. It underscored the shared responsibility of national and county institutions to ensure effective implementation of development agendas and reflected Bomet County's dedication to transparent governance, accountability, and sustained

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**Kisii county Senator Richard Onyanka encouraged the Bomet County Government to take swift corrective action, stating that counties must “uphold accountability, strengthen project oversight, and demonstrate visible progress that directly benefits communities.”**



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**Marsabet Senator Mohamed Chute pledged to continue supporting oversight mechanisms that strengthen accountability and performance across all counties, stressing that such engagements promote transparency, foster good governance, and ensure that every citizen benefits from development initiatives implemented by county governments.**

## Strengthening health systems through global partnerships.

Governor Barchok hosted a courtesy call from Dr. John Ondiek of Robert Johnson Development and Outsourcing International Company, who arrived in the county as part of an expanding collaboration between Bomet County, the Kenya Red Cross Society, and key U.S.-based partners. According to county officials, the partnership aims to accelerate improvements in healthcare delivery, infrastructure, and resource mobilization across the region. Sources from the Department of Health Services indicated that Dr. Ondiek's visit marked an important moment in the county's pursuit of stronger international linkages. His mission was said to have focused on assessing ongoing projects, identifying emerging needs, and exploring new opportunities for technical support and donor engagement. Following the courtesy call, it was reported that Dr. Ondiek, accompanied by county

health leadership, embarked on a comprehensive tour of several key health facilities. The team visited the Dr. Joyce Laboso Memorial Mother and Child Wellness Centre, Sigor Sub-County Hospital, and Kapkoros Sub-County Hospital, where they conducted a detailed inspection of existing infrastructure and evaluated the equipment gaps that continue to affect service delivery. During the engagements, Dr. Ondiek was said to have expressed deep appreciation for the county's efforts to upgrade its health systems. He reportedly assured officials of his personal commitment and that of his organization to supporting Bomet's health agenda. He further gave an undertaking to mobilize additional partners, donors, and technical experts, noting that the region's collaborative spirit and well-defined vision made it a strong candidate for international investment in health. County officials reported that the discussions also touched on long-

term strategies, including strengthening maternal and child health services, enhancing diagnostic capacity, and expanding community-level health programs. The visit was therefore viewed as a vital step toward building sustainable, well-resourced health facilities capable of meeting the needs of a growing population. It was further reported that the courtesy call and subsequent tours were attended by senior health officials, among them the CECM for Health Services, Dr. Joseph Sitonik, the Director of Health Services, Dr. Benard Sawek, and multidisciplinary teams from Longisa, Sigor, and Kapkoros hospitals. Their presence underscored the county's commitment to inclusive planning, transparency, and the pursuit of partnerships that prioritize the well-being of residents. As highlighted in the reports, the visit served as a reaffirmation of Bomet County's dedication to fostering strong global

# Bomet county conducted public participation on draft land valuation roll.



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**By Kipkirui Sang**

The County Government of Bomet has announced the successful conclusion of an extensive countywide public participation exercise on the Draft Land Valuation Roll. The forums, which were held across all five sub-counties Sotik, Chepalungu, Bomet Central, Bomet East and Konoin were described by county officials as a major milestone in advancing land administration, enhancing revenue governance and strengthening public trust in the land management process. According to officials from the Department of Lands, the forums provided residents with a rare opportunity to closely review and understand the contents of the Draft Valuation Roll.

Participants were encouraged to provide feedback, seek clarification and raise concerns on various aspects of the draft document. County leaders emphasized that the public input gathered throughout the exercise would play a critical role in refining the final roll to ensure it is both fair and reflective of local realities. County leadership further explained that with the public participation phase now complete, the process is entering a decisive stage. The Draft Valuation Roll will be submitted to the County Assembly, where it will undergo consideration, debate and approval before it can be formally adopted. Officials highlighted that this phase is essential to ensuring that the roll adheres to legal requirements and aligns with the county's development agenda.

The exercise brought together a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including property owners, market committees, chiefs, municipal leaders, business representatives and community organizations. During the engagements, residents were sensitized on key aspects such as valuation principles, types of rating, categories of rateable properties and the significance of land rates in supporting county development. Stakeholders expressed their commitment to ongoing data collection efforts and showed willingness to actively participate in the upcoming Finance Bill discussions to help negotiate fair and equitable land rates across the county. County officials reiterated the government's commitment to fostering transparency, accountability and inclusive governance.

They noted that public sensitization remains critical in helping residents understand the importance of land rates as a major source of county

revenue. Officials also explained that land rates reinforce secure property ownership, promote awareness of land value, discourage idle land especially in urban areas and empower citizens to demand effective service delivery. Residents were also educated on the categories of land exempted from rates, which include public places of worship, hospitals, educational institutions, outdoor sports facilities, cemeteries, national parks and game reserves. At the same time, the forums clarified where land rates apply, such as registered freehold land used for non-agricultural purposes, leasehold land with terms of at least 21 years and rateable properties within municipalities, towns, markets and trading centres.

These clarifications were described as key to helping residents understand how land valuation contributes to more effective planning and revenue collection. Officials noted that the Draft Valuation Roll is designed to enhance fairness, transparency and accountability in property taxation while ensuring that records of property ownership and land use remain accurate and up to date. They emphasized that a well-maintained valuation roll is not only important for revenue purposes but also serves as a foundation for informed decision-making in urban development and land management.

The public participation exercise was spearheaded by the Department of Lands under the leadership of the County Executive Committee Member for Lands, Mr. Joseph Kirui; the Chief Officer for Lands, Hon. Haron Kirui; Ms. Jane Kairanya from the State Department of Lands; and representatives from the Kenya Large-Scale Tea Growers (Brown Kenya Tea Company), among other partners. Officials stated that the collaborative and inclusive approach adopted throughout the exercise enriched the quality of ideas and submissions received from the public, adding that such partnerships are essential in ensuring that county policies reflect the needs and aspirations of residents.



Public participation held across five sub-counties.

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**"Development must never pause leadership may change, but the people's progress must forward."**

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# Bomet county disaster unit secures 5th position at national EMS and fire symposium.

By Brian Keter

The Bomet County Disaster Unit has recorded a major milestone after securing 5th place at the Intercountry International EMS & Fire Symposium held at the Bandarini Maritime Academy in Mombasa County. The performance places Bomet among the best-prepared and most competitive emergency response teams in the country. The top positions went to Makueni, Nairobi, Nyeri and Kiambu counties. The recognition came at the end of a week-long symposium that brought together disaster response units from across the country for intensive drills, leadership training and

emergency simulation exercises. Participants were evaluated on fire suppression, rescue operations, teamwork, rapid decision-making and overall readiness to handle emergencies. Speaking after the announcement, Bomet County CECM for Administration, Public Service, Devolution and Special Programmes Hon. Justus Maina commended the Disaster Unit for their strong showing and rising professionalism. "Our officers have demonstrated outstanding discipline, resilience and technical skill. Emerging 5th nationally is evidence

that Bomet's investment in disaster preparedness is bearing fruit. We will continue to strengthen our training programmes and equip our teams to protect the lives and property of our people," he said. The symposium further provided a platform for cross county knowledge exchange, helping counties build stronger emergency response networks. Bomet's delegation included firefighters, divers, psychosocial counsellors, Emergency Medical Service (EMS) responders and pump operators.



Bomet County has once again taken the national stage by storm as its Disaster Unit secured an impressive 5th position at the International EMS & Fire Symposium held at the Bandarini Maritime Academy in Mombasa. This top-five ranking places Bomet among Kenya's most prepared and highly skilled emergency response teams, underscoring the county's growing reputation for excellence, resilience and professionalism in disaster management. **PHOTO|Brian Keter**

By Joan Chepkoech

On Thursday, the Department of Disaster Management reported that at 1500 hours, its operations centre received a distress call from Aisaik Village in Singorwet Ward, where a house had caught fire under unknown circumstances. A response team was immediately dispatched, and upon arrival, officers worked efficiently to suppress the flames and prevent further damage to nearby homes. The department confirmed that no casualties were recorded and that investigations into the cause of the fire had begun. On Saturday at 0200

hours, the department responded to a second incident at Korara/Chepnyalilet Shopping Centre in Longisa Ward, Bomet East Sub-County. Firefighters undertook an extensive operation to contain the blaze, successfully stopping it from spreading throughout the centre despite the destruction of ten timber-built shops. The team ensured the safety of residents and traders in the vicinity and the department indicated that inquiries into the origin of the fire were underway. On Sunday at 1130 hours, the department attended to a

third emergency at Kapkwen Shopping Centre, where they found that a shop constructed entirely of timber had already been engulfed and reduced to ashes. Firefighters nonetheless managed to subdue the fire and prevent it from advancing to adjacent business premises. While expressing sympathy and support for the affected traders, the department underscored the heightened fire risks associated with timber structures, noting that dry timber ignites easily and accelerates the spread of flames. Business owners operating in such environments were



Aisaik village, Singorwet ward, Bomet central.



Kapkwen shopping center, Nyangores ward, Chepalungu.



Chepnyalilet shopping center, Longisa ward, Bomet East.

# Solar-powered milk coolers to revolutionize dairy production in Bomet county.



Bomet is stepping into a new era of dairy excellence as the county prepares to receive nine modern, solar-powered milk coolers that promise to boost efficiency, cut losses, and significantly increase farmer earnings. With a collective cooling capacity of 17,000 litres per day, this milestone marks a major leap toward climate-smart, reliable and profitable milk production positioning Bomet as a rising leader in Kenya's dairy value chain. **PHOTO|Faith Chepwogen**

By Faith Chepwogen

Bomet County's dairy sector is set for a major transformation following an intensive final site validation exercise conducted by the State Department for Livestock Development through the Livestock Value Chain Support Project (LVCSP), in close collaboration with the County Government of Bomet. The assessment, carried out across targeted dairy producer organizations, focused on evaluating infrastructure, accessibility, and the overall preparedness of each site to host the modern cooling equipment. This initiative marks a significant leap forward for dairy producer organizations across the county. Once installed, the nine milk coolers collectively offering a daily cooling capacity of 17,000 litres are expected to dramatically reduce post-harvest losses and improve milk handling standards. With milk estimated at KSh 45 per litre, farmers could save up to KSh 765,000 every single day, underscoring the economic impact of this investment on

local livelihoods. Beyond boosting farmer income, the project emphasizes long-term sustainability. Each milk cooler will be equipped with a solar-powered system, a deliberate move to cut down on the high cost of electricity that has historically hindered efficient milk preservation. This green-energy approach not only ensures reliable operation even in remote areas with unstable grid power, but also contributes to reducing carbon emissions in line with Kenya's climate-smart agriculture goals. According to project officials, the equipment will be dispatched to beneficiary cooperatives and dairy groups within the next eight weeks. Once operational, the coolers are expected to enhance the county's ability to maintain milk quality from the farm gate to the market, strengthening the region's competitiveness in the national dairy value chain. The initiative also reflects broader national efforts to modernize livestock systems, empower producer

organizations, and support counties in adopting technologies that elevate food safety, market access, and farmer resilience. For Bomet's growing dairy community, the installation of these coolers represents more than just equipment; it is a pathway to increased earnings, improved product standards, and a more robust and climate-resilient dairy economy. As the county anticipates the arrival of this equipment, optimism runs high among farmers and cooperative leaders who view the project as a game-changer that will reshape dairy production practices for years to come.

# Nurturing hope for every preterm baby



**World Prematurity Day 2025** reminds us that every preterm baby deserves a strong start in life. By providing quality care, early interventions, and family-centered support, we can help these vulnerable infants grow, thrive, and reach their full potential. Investing in their health today builds a brighter and more hopeful future for them, their families, and society as a whole. **PHOTO|Fancy Chepkirui**

**By Fancy Chepkirui**

World Prematurity Day 2025 is "Give preterm babies a strong start for a hopeful future." They explained that the theme highlights the importance of providing quality care and support to preterm infants from birth, ensuring that they receive the necessary resources and medical attention to grow, thrive, and reach their full potential.

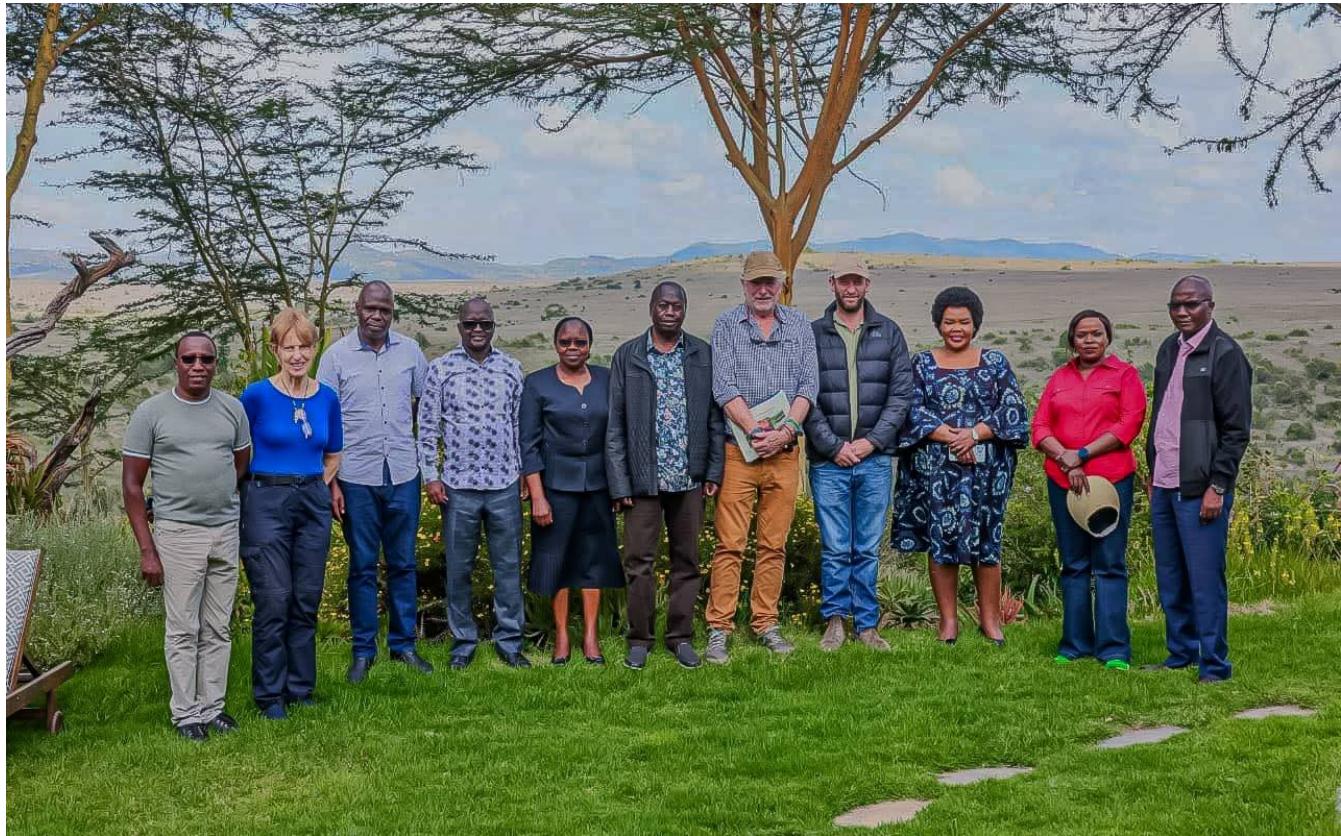
They further emphasized that it underscores the need for early interventions, family-centered care, and equitable access to health services, all of which are critical for

improving survival rates and promoting the long-term well-being of premature babies. According to the officials, the theme aligns closely with the World Health Organization's campaign "Healthy beginnings, hopeful futures," which focuses on investing in the health and well-being of preterm infants from the very beginning.

They added that giving preterm babies a strong start not only improves their immediate health outcomes but also lays the foundation for a brighter future, benefiting families, communities, and society as a whole.

They urged governments, healthcare providers, and communities worldwide to prioritize care for premature infants, strengthen healthcare systems, and raise awareness about the challenges faced by these vulnerable babies, emphasizing the global commitment to ensuring that every preterm child has the opportunity to thrive.

# Bomet joins leaders championing nature positive food systems at landmark TEEB agrifood summit.



Bomet County takes a bold step towards a sustainable future! Represented by CO Solomon Kimetto, the county joins leaders from across Kenya at the TEEB AgriFood Project, championing climate-resilient agriculture, ecosystem conservation, and food security for generations to come. **PHOTO|Kipyegon Chirchir**

By Kipyegon Chirchir

Water and Climate Change Chief Officer, Solomon Kimetto, who represented Governor Prof. Hillary Barchok, attended the inaugural meeting of the Governors' Leadership Group for The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) AgriFood Project.

He reported that the meeting was a joint initiative between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Strathmore University Business School, aimed at promoting sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural practices across Kenya. Kimetto noted that the two-day event, held in Laikipia County, brought together leaders and policymakers from ten counties to evaluate the progress of a transformative food systems program and to address the increasingly urgent issue of environmental degradation. He

highlighted that Kenya's Water Towers, critical sources of freshwater and biodiversity, are under growing pressure due to the rising population, agricultural expansion, and other human activities, which have collectively stressed the environment and threatened the sustainability of key ecosystems.

He further explained that the TEEB AgriFood Project, as part of the broader True Value of Food Project Kenya, is designed to help policymakers and agricultural stakeholders integrate the true value of natural capital including ecosystem services, biodiversity, and climate functions into agricultural policy and decision-making processes. By doing so, the program seeks to ensure that economic growth and food production are aligned with environmental conservation and sustainability goals.

Kimetto emphasized that the county's participation in the meeting reaffirmed Bomet County's commitment to adopting climate-resilient and nature-positive policies.

He noted that these policies aim to enhance food security, improve farmer livelihoods, and promote environmental sustainability. He also expressed optimism that by embracing approaches that recognize the value of ecosystems and biodiversity, Bomet County, along with other counties, can contribute to a sustainable food system that benefits both people and the environment in the long term.

# Bomet celebrates 120 villages achieving ODF status in major public health milestone.



By Fancy Chepkirui

The Department of Health Services reported that it had joined its partner, Dig deep Africa, along with other WASH stakeholders, in celebrating 120 villages that had been officially declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) in Rongena-Manaret Ward, Sotik Sub-County. The department explained that the event was both a celebration of achievement and an important platform for educating and sensitizing community members on the value of maintaining open defecation-free status.

Officials noted that the adoption of proper sanitation practices significantly reduces the incidence of diarrhoeal and other hygiene-related diseases, which remain a major public health concern, particularly in rural communities. Representing the Department of Health Services, the Assistant Director of Public Health, Mr. Leonard Langat, urged community members to consistently adopt best practices in sanitation and hygiene.

He reminded the public that up to 80% of common illnesses in the community are linked to poor sanitation and inadequate

personal hygiene. He emphasized that good hygiene begins with simple but critical practices such as regular handwashing with clean water and soap, safe disposal of human waste, proper use of sanitary facilities, and maintaining cleanliness in households and public spaces.

He further highlighted that these practices not only prevent infections but also safeguard the health and well-being of families, schools, and the wider community, contributing to a healthier and more productive population. The department further highlighted that the County Government of Bomet remains strongly committed to scaling up hygiene promotion through comprehensive initiatives, including community engagement programs, school health campaigns, and public awareness drives.

These efforts, officials noted, align with Kenya's broader preventive and promotive health agenda, which seeks to reduce preventable diseases, improve overall public health outcomes, and foster sustainable, long-term improvements in sanitation practices. The celebration, the

department reported, brought together Bomet County health officials, development partners, frontline health workers, and community representatives in a unified effort to strengthen hygiene practices, prevent disease outbreaks, and enhance the quality of life for residents.

Officials described the event as a key milestone in promoting sustainable public health and reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring that more villages achieve and maintain ODF status in the future. They also noted that continued community engagement, education, and monitoring would be essential in sustaining the gains made, emphasizing that collective responsibility and behavioral change remain critical to achieving lasting improvements in sanitation and hygiene.



# Bomet joins launch of Kenya's tourism mapping initiative.



By Dennis Chepkwony

The Department of Trade, Energy, Tourism, Investment and Industry (TETII), through its Directorate of Tourism and Investment, was reported to have welcomed a high-level delegation comprising representatives from the State Department of Tourism, the Kenya Wildlife Service Central Rift Region, and other key stakeholders.

According to sources, the delegation was led by Tourism Director Moses Lesaibile, who, together with his team, paid a courtesy call to H.E. Governor Prof. Hillary Barchok at his office. It was further reported that the meeting was an inception session marking the launch of a nationwide integrated tourism mapping initiative. The initiative, officials explained, will utilize Geospatial Information Systems (GIS) technology to comprehensively map Kenya's unique tourism zones, including parks, cultural sites, nature trails, and other points of interest.

The project was described as a major step toward creating a detailed inventory of tourism sites, guiding

infrastructure planning, safeguarding sensitive ecosystems, and promoting sustainable tourism growth across the country. County officials noted that, for Bomet County, the initiative is expected to open up new opportunities for tourism development. They indicated that it would facilitate better regional marketing, improve access to information for investors, and enhance planning for tourism infrastructure. It was emphasized that the mapping exercise would also help identify areas of cultural and ecological significance, ensuring their protection while promoting responsible tourism activities.

Present at the meeting were County Secretary Simeon Langat, Director of Tourism Charles Korir, and other county officials, who were reported to have highlighted the county's commitment to supporting the project. The officials reportedly affirmed that Bomet County is keen on leveraging such initiatives to build a more competitive tourism sector that benefits both residents and visitors. The delegation reportedly expressed appreciation for the county leadership's support and underscored

the importance of collaboration between national and county governments. They noted that the initiative is expected to provide a solid foundation for long-term tourism planning, strengthen investor confidence, and contribute to economic growth.

It was further emphasized that the project would play a key role in preserving the county's natural landscapes and cultural heritage, ensuring that future generations can continue to enjoy and benefit from them. Overall, sources indicated that the meeting reflected a shared vision among stakeholders to develop a sustainable and integrated tourism sector, combining modern technology, strategic planning, and environmental stewardship to position Kenya and Bomet County in particular as a premier destination for tourists from around the world.

# Bomet county receives Ksh.41M drug consignment for health facilities.



The County Government of Bomet has received a vital Kshs 41 million consignment of drugs and non-pharmaceuticals from KEMSA, delivered to the Longisa County Referral Hospital. Health Services CECM Dr. Joseph Sitonik confirmed the stock will be distributed immediately to all health facilities, including Sub County Hospitals and dispensaries, to end drug shortages. Dr. Sitonik emphasized the county's commitment to maintaining a steady supply to deliver universal health coverage to Bomet residents. **PHOTO|Yvonne**

By Yvonne

The County Government of Bomet has procured a consignment of assorted drugs and non-pharmaceuticals to replenish its pharmacies at the Longisa County Referral Hospital, five Sub County Hospitals, Health centres and all dispensaries across the county.

The first batch of the total order, worth Kshs 41M that the department of Health Services placed with KEMSA was delivered at the Longisa County Referral Hospital, this morning.

Further distribution to all other facilities by KEMSA will be done immediately to help in ensuring better and quality services are rendered to all patients

seeking treatment services at all the health facilities.

While receiving the quarterly consignment, Health Services CECM Dr. Joseph Sitonik said that his department was committed to ensuring that it maintains a steady supply of the essential commodities all year round.

"Under the stewardship of Governor Prof. Hillary Barchok, We are committed to delivering universal health coverage to the people of Bomet and we will ensure that our facilities don't run out of drugs, at all times", Said Dr. Sitonik.

He was flanked by Director Health Services, Dr Benard Sawek and County Pharmacist Dr Mathew Yegon who oversaw the offloading and verification of the medical products.

# Gilbert Sang storms to second in thrilling 3000M showdown.



By Enock Langat

Gilbert Sang delivered an exceptional performance at the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Stadium, securing a strong second-place finish in the highly competitive men's 3000m race. They noted that the race attracted some of the country's finest middle-distance runners, making the competition intense and challenging. Despite the high level of competition, Sang displayed remarkable determination, stamina, and strategic racing, allowing him to hold his own against seasoned athletes and finish strongly.

According to team officials, Sang's performance was a testament to his dedication, discipline, and years of consistent training. They highlighted that from the very start of the race, he maintained focus, pacing himself carefully while keeping a keen eye on his rivals. His ability to combine speed with

endurance, they said, underscored why he continues to be regarded as one of the nation's most outstanding athletes and has earned the affectionate title of the "King of the Track." Observers at the stadium reportedly described Sang's performance as both inspiring and thrilling, praising his relentless pursuit of excellence and the grace with which he navigated the intense competition.

Officials further emphasized that his achievement was more than just a personal milestone; it represented a significant moment of pride for the athletics community, highlighting the growing strength and potential of the country's middle-distance runners. The team also noted that Gilbert Sang's dedication extends beyond the track, as he consistently serves as a role model for young athletes, demonstrating that hard work, discipline, and resilience are key

ingredients for success.

Officials expressed confidence that Sang's performance today would inspire a new generation of runners to pursue athletics with passion and commitment, and they hinted at expectations for even greater achievements in upcoming competitions. In conclusion, officials remarked that Gilbert Sang's early morning victory, marked by courage, perseverance, and athletic brilliance, reflects both his personal growth and the promising future of athletics in the country, reinforcing his status as a leading figure in the sport and a source of national pride.